

CLAIMS:

1. An information processing system, comprising:
  - a first information processing apparatus operable to authenticate a device;
  - a second information processing apparatus operable to hold setting information required to connect the device to a network; and
  - a third information processing apparatus connected to the network based on the setting information;the first information processing apparatus including:
  - a first storage unit operable to store first identification information for authenticating the third information processing apparatus, and second identification information for identifying the third information processing apparatus;
  - an authenticating unit operable to authenticate the third information processing apparatus based on the first identification information in response to a request from the third information processing apparatus;
  - a generating unit operable to generate third identification information that is used to connect the third information processing apparatus to the second information processing apparatus;
  - a second storage unit operable to store the third identification information in association with the second identification information;
  - a first sending unit operable to send the third

identification information to the third information processing apparatus;

a first receiving unit operable to receive the third identification information from the second information processing unit; and

a second sending unit operable to send the second identification information to the second information processing apparatus;

the second information processing apparatus including:

a third storage unit operable to store the setting information for connecting the third information processing apparatus to the network in association with the second identification information;

a second receiving unit operable to receive the third identification information from the third information processing apparatus;

a third sending unit operable to send the received third identification information to the first information processing apparatus;

a third receiving unit operable to receive the second identification information from the first information processing apparatus; and

a fourth sending unit operable to send the setting information stored in association with the received second identification information to the third information processing apparatus; and

the third information processing apparatus

including:

a fourth storage unit operable to store the first identification information;

a requesting unit operable to request the first information processing apparatus to authenticate the third information processing apparatus based on the first identification information stored in the fourth storage unit;

a fourth receiving unit operable to receive the third identification information from the first information processing apparatus;

a fifth sending unit operable to send the received third identification information to the second information processing apparatus; and

a fifth receiving unit operable to receive the setting information from the second information processing apparatus.

2. An information processing system according to claim 1, wherein the first identification information includes a device ID identifying the third information processing apparatus and device authentication information.

3. An information processing system according to claim 1, wherein the setting information includes information required to connect the third information processing apparatus to a server of an Internet service provider.

4. An information processing apparatus for

providing a device to be connected to a network with setting information required for connection to the network, the information processing apparatus comprising:

an authenticating unit operable to authenticate the device based on device identification information identifying the device; and

a sending unit operable to send the setting information to the authenticated device.

5. An information processing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

a requesting unit operable to request the device identification information from another apparatus that manages the device identification information,

wherein the authenticating unit authenticates the device based on the device identification information received from the another apparatus.

6. An information processing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

a setting information request receiving unit operable to receive a request for the setting information the device has sent based on determining information identifying the information processing apparatus acquired from another apparatus that manages the determining information,

wherein the sending unit sends the setting information to the device from which the request for the setting information is received.

7. An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the setting information request receiving unit receives the request for the setting information when the device sends identification information identifying the information processing apparatus to the another apparatus.

8. An information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the identification information is selected from among a plurality of pieces of identification information stored in the device.

9. An information processing method by which an information processing apparatus provides a device to be connected to a network with setting information required to connect to the network, the information processing method comprising:

authenticating the device based on device identification information identifying the device; and  
sending the setting information to the authenticated device.

10. An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein the authenticating step includes acquiring the device identification information from another apparatus that manages the device identification information and authenticating the device based on the acquired device identification information.

11. An information processing method according to claim 9, further comprising:

receiving a request for the setting information the device has sent based on determining information identifying the information processing apparatus acquired from another apparatus that manages the determining information,

wherein the sending step includes sending the setting information to the device from which the request for the setting information is received.

12. An information processing method according to claim 11, wherein the setting information request receiving step includes receiving the request for the setting information when the device sends identification information identifying the information processing apparatus to the another apparatus.

13. An information processing method according to claim 12, wherein the identification information is selected from among a plurality of pieces of identification information stored in the device.

14. A computer program for providing a device to be connected to a network with setting information required to connect to the network, the computer program comprising:

controlling the authentication of the device based on device identification information identifying the

device; and

controlling the sending of the setting information to the authenticated device.

15. An information processing apparatus connected to a network, comprising:

a receiving unit operable to receive information identifying a first apparatus that manages setting information required to connect the information processing apparatus to the network;

a requesting unit operable to send identification information identifying the information processing apparatus to a second apparatus that is to authenticate the information processing apparatus, and to request the second apparatus to authenticate the information processing apparatus;

a sending unit operable to send a result of the authentication by the second apparatus to the first apparatus; and

an acquiring unit operable to acquire the setting information from the first apparatus based on the result of the authentication sent by the sending unit.

16. An information processing apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:

an identifying information requesting unit operable to request the first apparatus identifying information from a third apparatus that manages the first

apparatus identifying information,

wherein the receiving unit receives the first apparatus identifying information sent by the third apparatus in response to the request from the identifying information requesting unit.

17. An information processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the receiving unit receives the first apparatus identifying information sent by the third apparatus to the information processing apparatus authenticated by the second apparatus.

18. An information processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the identifying information requesting unit sends identification information identifying the first apparatus to the third apparatus and requests the first apparatus identifying information from the third apparatus.

19. An information processing apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising:

a selecting unit operable to select the identification information identifying the first apparatus from among a plurality of pieces of identification information.

20. An information processing method for an information processing apparatus connected to a network, comprising:

receiving information identifying a first



apparatus that manages setting information required to connect the information processing apparatus to the network;

    sending identification information identifying the information processing apparatus to a second apparatus that is to authenticate the information processing apparatus, and requesting the second apparatus to authenticate the information processing apparatus;

    sending a result of the authentication by the second apparatus to the first apparatus; and

    acquiring the setting information from the first apparatus based on the result of the authentication sent in the sending step.

21. An information processing method according to claim 20, further comprising:

    requesting the first apparatus identifying information from a third apparatus that manages the first apparatus identifying information,

    wherein the receiving step includes receiving the first apparatus identifying information sent by the third apparatus in response to the request for the first apparatus identifying information.

22. An information processing method according to claim 21, wherein the receiving step includes receiving the first apparatus identifying information sent by the third apparatus to the information processing apparatus authenticated by the second apparatus.

23. An information processing method according to claim 21, wherein the identifying information requesting step includes sending identification information identifying the first apparatus to the third apparatus and requesting the first apparatus identifying information from the third apparatus.

24. An information processing method according to claim 23, further comprising selecting the identification information identifying the first apparatus from among a plurality of pieces of identification information.

25. A computer program for processing information in an information processing apparatus connected to a network, comprising:

controlling the reception of information identifying a first apparatus that manages setting information required to connect the information processing apparatus to the network;

controlling the sending of identification information identifying the information processing apparatus to a second apparatus that is to authenticate the information processing apparatus, and the requesting of the second apparatus to authenticate the information processing apparatus;

controlling the sending of a result of the authentication by the second apparatus to the first apparatus;

and

controlling the acquisition of the setting information from the first apparatus based on the result of the authentication sent in the sending control step.